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US IOTWS Program Update

U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program
from advanced technologies to resilient communities

US IOTWS Program Supports UNESCO Workshop on Post-Tsunami Impacts and Recovery of Coastal Ecosystems and Communities in the Indian Ocean

February 20-24, 2006. Phuket, Thailand

The US IOTWS Program supported an international workshop organized by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC-WESTPAC) in Phuket, Thailand, to discuss lessons from the impacts on and recovery efforts for coastal and marine ecosystems and coastal communities following the 2004 tsunami. The event involved nearly 200 experts and officials from international organizations, Asian governments, NGOs, and local communities. US IOTWS Program experts discussed using integrated coastal management as a means to achieve improved preparedness to coastal disasters and to minimize recurring human impacts on coastal ecosystems. Representatives from the USAID-funded Coastal Livelihoods Project facilitated discussions on developing TsunamiResilient Communities. Key outcomes stressed the need for new and stronger partnerships for tsunami warning efforts in the region, a clearer mandate for combining efforts to address degradation of coastal resources and improved preparedness for tsunami and other coastal disasters in the future. Workshop results will be posted at www.us-iotws.gov.

Workshop on Lessons Learned in Recovery: Post-Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation for Sustainable Coastal Development

February 15-17, 2006. Bangkok, Thailand

The Asian Institute of Technology hosted the "Post-Tsunami Lessons Learned Workshop for Sustainable Coastal Management" on February 15-17, 2006. The USAID-funded Post-Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Project, in conjunction with the US IOTWS Program, jointly sponsored the workshop to share lessons from the affected post-tsunami countries on how to support sustainable coastal management in the wake of the tsunami disaster. Participants stressed the need for longer term planning and more integrated approaches to coastal management to mitigate for coastal disasters and to assist communities to prepare themselves within a multi-hazard framework.



US IOTWS Program Sponsors Hands-On Paleotsunami Training for Sri Lankan, Indonesian, and Thai Geologists

January 27-February 17, 2006. Santiago, Chile

Geologists from the Indian Ocean region participated in a three-week field course in south-central Chile to examine diverse geologic evidence of tsunamis and earthquakes from the past 2000 years. The participants focused on identifying the special settings where tsunamis leave lasting landforms and deposits to apply these techniques around the Indian Ocean. The training is intended to promote more sophisticated research in the region on the historical tsunami events in order to more accurately predict the likelihood of future occurrences.



Sri Lankan geologists use entrenching tools to unearth signs of unusually large tsunamis near Maullín, Chile.

U.S. Tsunami Experts Visit Coastal Villages in Thailand to Initiate Regional Community Preparedness Program

February 1-2, 2006. Ranong, Thailand

Disaster management experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, visited several fishing villages in Ranong Province in Southern Thailand as part of the initial phase of a regional *TsunamiResilient Communities* (TRC) Program. Under the US IOTWS Program, NOAA, USAID, and other partners will train national and local officials, NGOs, and others to help coastal communities adopt common benchmarks and best practices in building resilience to tsunamis and other coastal hazards.

UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Application of Seismology to Tsunami Detection and Alert Systems – Sri Lanka

April 3-7, 2006. Colombo.

For more information, contact: Shane Detweiler, USGS, shane@usgs.gov.

Incident Command System Training – Sri Lanka

April 22-29, 2006. Colombo and Kandy, Sri Lanka

For more information, contact: Deanne Shulman, USDA/FS, dshulman@fs.fed.us.

OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The Third International Conference on Early Warning (EWC III) - From Concept to Action

March 27-29 2006. Bonn, Germany

For further information or inquiries, e-mail ewc3@un.org; <http://www.ewc3.org/>.

About the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program

The US IOTWS Program is part of the international effort to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean following the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The US program adopts an “end-to-end” approach—addressing regional, national, and local aspects of a truly functional warning system—along with multiple other hazards that threaten communities in the region. In partnership with the international community, national governments, and other partners, the US program offers technology transfer, training, and information resources to strengthen the tsunami warning and preparedness capabilities of nations.

